

VZCZCXRO7669
OO RUEHBI
DE RUEHLM #0036 0091037
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 091037Z JAN 08
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7463
INFO RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 0625
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 7613
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 5793
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4212
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1701
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 4218
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 3314
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 8214
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 5783
RUEHON/AMCONSUL TORONTO PRIORITY 0504
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2530
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

UNCLAS COLOMBO 000036

SIPDIS

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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS, DS/IP/SCA, AND DS/ITA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [MOPS](#) [ASEC](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: SMALL BLAST IN COLOMBO, NO INJURIES

REF: A. COLOMBO 0034

[1](#)B. COLOMBO 0015

[1](#)1. On January 8, around 7:30 pm, a small bomb exploded in the Colombo Fort area, opposite the government owned publishing house Lake House. No injuries or casualties were reported. The bomb, approximately 75 grams of C-4, according to police contacts, was placed inside a phone booth on the ground floor of a building adjacent to a local theater. Local press reported that Air Force Commander Roshan Goonetilleke passed by the blast location several minutes before the explosion. (Note: It is unlikely that such a small amount of explosive would have been used to target a passing vehicle. End Note)

[1](#)2. COMMENT: This blast came just hours after the blast that killed Minister of Nation Building Dassanayake (ref a). The blast did not appear to have a specific target. Nonetheless, it demonstrates the LTTE's ability to operate inside a high security zone, in close proximity to five-star hotels and the Air Force headquarters.

BLAKE